

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted prior to continued examination of the present application and in response to the official action dated February 19, 2008. Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-14 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**§103 Rejections**

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks (5659350) in view of Vegt (6038433).

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks and Vegt as applied to claims 3 and 9, and further in view of Arai (6751401).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14) are patentable over Hendricks, Vegt, and Arai (collectively "the cited references").

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a transmission/reception device and method. Each of the claims recites that a redistribution digital signal is transmitted/received. Each of the claims further recites that the redistribution digital signal is formed on the basis of a digital signal received from a distribution device, and that "the received digital signal is made up of packets, the packets include a predefined area in which data can be written, and the formation of the redistribution [signal] includes writing information identifying [a] reception device in the

predefined area and writing reception control information for the reception device in the predefined area." Supporting disclosure for the quoted recitation can be found in the specification at, for example, page 19, lines 11-16.

None of the cited references discloses the quoted recitation. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-4 and 9-11 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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